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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/660,538	09/12/2003	Tsutomu Ohishi	242738US2	5339

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EXAMINER	
RODRIGUEZ, LENNIN R	

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
2625	

NOTIFICATION DATE	DELIVERY MODE
06/18/2010	ELECTRONIC

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Notice of the Office communication was sent electronically on above-indicated "Notification Date" to the following e-mail address(es):

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Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/660,538	OHISHI ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	LENNIN R. RODRIGUEZ	2625	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on *18 May 2010*.

2a)☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b)☒ This action is non-final.

3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☒ Claim(s) *1-3,5-7,9-16,18-23,25,26 and 29* is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6)☒ Claim(s) *1-3,5-7,9-16,18-23,25,26 and 29* is/are rejected.

7)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a)☐ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12)☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a)☒ All b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:

1.☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date *2/26/2010*.
4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Arguments

1. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1, 14 and 29 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

2. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 5/18/2010 has been entered.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The text of those sections of Title 35, U.S. Code not included in this action can be found in a prior Office action.

4. Claims 1-3, 5-7, 11, 13-16, 18-21, 26 and 29 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Whitmarsh (US 2002/0101608) in view of Matsueda et al. (US 2001/0040692), Furukawa et al. (US 2001/0046065) and Ouchi et al. (US 2003/0025936).

(1) regarding claims 1, 14 and 29:

Whitmarsh '608 discloses an image forming apparatus (10 in Fig. 1) comprising:

hardware resources used for image formation (18b, 18c and 18d in Fig. 1, printers are hardware used to printing (forming));

applications for performing processes on image formation (paragraph [0024], lines 1-7, where the client includes print service print driver that takes care of image printing); and

a platform that exists between the applications and the hardware resources (paragraph [0022], lines 1-4, where the client contains a CPU which takes care of processing of images and the hardware devices with the printing parameters), the platform including an Operating System (OS) (paragraph [0024, lines 1-7, Windows operating system) and a least one control service to control an execution of each requested processing of the hardware resources according to a function call from at least one of the applications (paragraph [0021], lines 19-26, publisher 18 controls the outputting to the printers using the received printing parameters from the application sever), wherein interprocess communication is performed between the control service and at least one of the applications (paragraph [0021], lines 11-26, communication is being held between the publisher and the server for example),

the image forming apparatus further comprising, as one of the applications:

an information providing part (workflow application server 14 in Fig. 1) configured to provide, to a client terminal, screen data being used for selecting one or more image forming apparatuses among from a plurality of image forming apparatuses (paragraph [0035] and paragraph [0036], lines 1-4, where the user can select the destination printer

among the ones shown in a list) connected to a network on the client terminal (paragraph [0021], lines 1-7, where the printers are connected through a network to the system),

a print request part (18a in Fig. 1) configured to distribute print data and a print request to one or more of the plurality of image forming apparatuses (paragraph [0021], lines 19-26, where the publisher distributes the print request with the print files to 18b...18d in Fig. 1), wherein, when a print request that has been received includes a name of print data (paragraph [0021], lines 23-26, where every file being sent to a printer needs to have a name to it, or identification in order to be recognized and in this case printable file 22 needs to have that) and a function of an image forming apparatus from the client terminal (paragraph [0041], lines 1-6, it contains print request parameters that indicate functions of the printing apparatus such as color print).

Whitmarsh '608 further discloses computer readable medium storing computer code (paragraph [0050]).

Whitmarsh '608 discloses all the subject matter as described above except an information providing part configured to store, in a storage unit, information including addresses of one or more of the image forming apparatuses which have been selected by associating the information with functions of the selected one or more image forming apparatuses;

However, Matsueda '692 teaches an information providing part configured to store, in a storage unit (paragraph [0062], and 203 in Fig. 2), information including addresses of one or more of the image forming apparatuses which have been selected

by associating the information with functions of the selected one or more image forming apparatuses (paragraph [0028], lines 8-14, where a designated printer is selected and paragraph [0062], where the address of the printing apparatus used is stored); and

Having a system of Whitmarsh '608 reference and then given the well-established teaching of Matsueda '692 reference, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the image forming apparatus and method of Whitmarsh '608 to include an information providing part configured to store, in a storage unit, information including addresses of one or more of the image forming apparatuses which have been selected by associating the information with functions of the selected one or more image forming apparatuses as taught by Matsueda '692 because it would allow the system to have a destination and related information of the device to which it will send print data that way it releases the client computer the memory usage of having all that information in its own memory, thus reducing the cost of adding more memory to a client computer.

Whitmarsh '608 and Matsueda '692 disclose all the subject matter as described above except the print request part extracts one or more addresses of one or more of the plurality of image forming apparatuses having the function included in the print request sent from the client terminal from among the selected one or more information apparatuses, and the print request part distributes the print data and a print request to the one or more of the plurality of image forming apparatuses having the function by specifying the extracted one or more addresses.

However, Furukawa '065 teaches the print request part extracts one or more addresses of one or more of the plurality of image forming apparatuses having the function included in the print request sent from the client terminal from among the selected one or more information apparatuses (paragraph [0050], [0051], and [0059], where the address is extracted of the selected printer supporting a printing function), and the print request part distributes the print data and a print request to the one or more of the plurality of image forming apparatuses having the function by specifying the extracted one or more addresses (paragraph [0060], where the extracted address is that of the desired printer devices, therefore only transmitting to those having support for the printing function).

Having a system of Whitmarsh '608 and Matsueda '692 and then given the well-established teaching of Furukawa '065 reference, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the image forming apparatus and process method of Whitmarsh '608 and Matsueda '692 to include the print request part extracts one or more addresses of one or more of the plurality of image forming apparatuses having the function included in the print request sent from the client terminal from among the selected one or more information apparatuses, and the print request part distributes the print data and a print request to the one or more of the plurality of image forming apparatuses having the function by specifying the extracted one or more addresses as taught by Furukawa '065 because it will provide with a more direct access to matching job's capabilities printers, thus reducing unnecessary network traffic, thus reducing operating costs.

Whitmarsh '608, Matsueda '692 and Furukawa '065 disclose all the subject matter as described above except the hardware resources, the applications, and the platform are included in a cabinet of the image forming apparatus;

However, Ouchi '936 teaches the hardware resources, the applications, and the platform are included in a cabinet of the image forming apparatus (paragraph [0072], lines 4-9, as used previously Whitmarsh '608 provides the hardware resources in the printers and the applications and platform on a client device, Ouchi '936 demonstrates that these devices can be easily combined into a single device/apparatus yielding the same predictable results);

Having a system of Whitmarsh '608, Matsueda '692 and Furukawa '065 and then given the well-established teaching of Ouchi '936 reference, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the image forming apparatus, method and computer readable medium of Whitmarsh '608, Matsueda '692 and Furukawa '065 to include the hardware resources, the applications, and the platform are included in a cabinet of the image forming apparatus as taught by Ouchi '936 because the results of the combination would have been predictable and resulted in modifying the invention of Whitmarsh '608, Matsueda '692 and Furukawa '065 to have all the functionality in a single device/apparatus, thereby allowing for space saving in the location of the machine and also budget savings since a consolidated machine generally costs less than buying separate client computer and printer combined.

(2) regarding claims 2 and 15:

Whitmarsh '608 further discloses wherein the information providing part sends screen data for inputting a print instruction to the client terminal (paragraph [0041]-[0042], where via a browser there is provided a screen so that the user can make choices); and

the print request part distributes the print data and the print request when receiving the print instruction from the client terminal (paragraph [0046], lines 1-7).

(3) regarding claims 3 and 16:

Whitmarsh '608 further discloses wherein the information providing part sends screen data used for uploading the print data to the client terminal (paragraph [0038]); and

the image forming apparatus receives the print data when the print data is uploaded from the client terminal (paragraphs [0038]-[0039]).

(4) regarding claims 5 and 18:

Whitmarsh '608 further discloses wherein the screen data includes data for displaying a plurality of image forming apparatuses (paragraph [0043], where the user can select the destination printer among the ones shown in a list) and corresponding places for each of the image forming apparatuses (paragraph [0043], where the list includes publisher address).

(5) regarding claims 6 and 19:

Whitmarsh '608 further discloses wherein the screen data includes data for displaying a plurality of image forming apparatuses (paragraph [0043], where the user

can select the destination printer among the ones shown in a list) and corresponding functions for each of the image forming apparatuses (paragraph [0041]).

(6) regarding claim 7:

Whitmarsh '608 discloses all the subject matter as described above except wherein the print request part distributes the print data and the print request by referring to the information stored in the storage unit.

However, Matsueda '692 teaches wherein the print request part distributes the print data and the print request by referring to the information stored in the storage unit (paragraph [0028], lines 8-14, where the extracted address is that of the desired printer device) (paragraph [0062], and 203 in Fig. 2).

Having a system of Whitmarsh '608 reference and then given the well-established teaching of Matsueda '692 reference, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the image forming apparatus and method of Whitmarsh '608 to include wherein the print request part distributes the print data and the print request by referring to the information stored in the storage unit as taught by Matsueda '692 because it would allow the system to have a destination and related information of the device to which it will send print data that way it releases the client computer the memory usage of having all that information in its own memory, thus reducing the cost of adding more memory to a client computer.

(7) regarding claim 11:

Whitmarsh '608 and Matsueda '692 disclose all the subject matter as described above except wherein the print request part comprises an address obtaining part for

obtaining addresses of the one or more image forming apparatuses connected to a network; and

wherein the print request part distributes the print data and the print request by using addresses obtained by the address obtaining part.

However, Furukawa '065 teaches wherein the print request part comprises an address obtaining part for obtaining addresses of the one or more image forming apparatuses connected to a network (paragraph [0050], [0051], and [0059], where the address is extracted of the selected printer supporting a printing function); and

wherein the print request part distributes the print data and the print request by using addresses obtained by the address obtaining part (paragraph [0060], where the extracted address is that of the desired printer devices, therefore only transmitting to those having support for the printing function).

Having a system of Whitmarsh '608 and Matsueda '692 and then given the well-established teaching of Furukawa '065 reference, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the image forming apparatus and process method of Whitmarsh '608 and Matsueda '692 to include wherein the print request part comprises an address obtaining part for obtaining addresses of the one or more image forming apparatuses connected to a network; and wherein the print request part distributes the print data and the print request by using addresses obtained by the address obtaining part as taught by Furukawa '065 because it will provide with a more direct access to matching job's capabilities printers, thus reducing unnecessary network traffic, thus reducing operating costs.

(8) regarding claims 13 and 26:

Whitmarsh '608 further discloses wherein the image forming apparatus is configured to be able to install a plurality of applications separately from the control services (paragraph [0033], where different programs such as job store application can be installed), and the image forming apparatus includes the information providing part and the print request part as an application (paragraph [0043]).

(9) regarding claim 20:

Whitmarsh '608 discloses all the subject matter as described above except wherein the image forming apparatus stores in a memory information including addresses of the selected one or more image forming apparatuses,

However, Matsueda '692 teaches wherein the image forming apparatus stores in a memory information including addresses of the selected one or more image forming apparatuses (paragraph [0028] and paragraph [0062]),

Having a system of Whitmarsh '608 reference and then given the well-established teaching of Matsueda '692 reference, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the image forming apparatus and method of Whitmarsh '608 to include wherein the image forming apparatus stores in a memory information including addresses of the selected one or more image forming apparatuses as taught by Matsueda '692 because it would allow the system to have a destination and related information of the device to which it will send print data that way it releases the client computer the memory usage of having all

that information in its own memory, thus reducing the cost of adding more memory to a client computer.

Whitmarsh '608 and Matsueda '692 disclose all the subject matter as described above except wherein the image forming apparatus distributes the print data and the print request by referring to the information stored in the memory.

However, Furukawa '065 teaches wherein the image forming apparatus distributes the print data and the print request by referring to the information stored in the memory (paragraph [0060], where the extracted address is that of the desired printer devices, therefore only transmitting to those having support for the printing function).

Having a system of Whitmarsh '608 and Matsueda '692 and then given the well-established teaching of Furukawa '065 reference, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the image forming apparatus and process method of Whitmarsh '608 and Matsueda '692 to include wherein the image forming apparatus distributes the print data and the print request by referring to the information stored in the memory as taught by Furukawa '065 because it will provide with a more direct access to matching job's capabilities printers, thus reducing unnecessary network traffic, thus reducing operating costs.

(10) regarding claim 21:

Whitmarsh '608 further discloses wherein the print instruction includes an instruction for designating functions to be used for printing the print data (paragraph

[0041]-[0042], where via a browser there is provided a screen so that the user can make choices), and

the print request part selects one or more image forming apparatuses that includes the designated functions from among the selected one or more image forming apparatuses (paragraph [0043], where the user can select the destination printer among the ones shown in a list), and distributes the print data and the print request to the one or more image forming apparatuses that includes the designated functions (paragraph [0046], lines 1-7).

5. Claims 9-10 and 22-23 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Whitmarsh (US 2002/0101608), Matsueda et al. (US 2001/0040692), Furukawa et al. (US 2001/0046065) and Ouchi et al. (US 2003/0025936) in view of Shima (JP 2001209503 A, machine translation it's being used for the citations).

(1) regarding claims 9 and 22:

Whitmarsh '608, Matsueda '692, Furukawa '065 and Ouchi '936 disclose all the subject matter as described above except wherein the print request part requests a printing part of the image forming apparatus itself to print the print data.

However, Shima '503 teaches wherein the print request part requests a printing part of the image forming apparatus itself to print the print data (paragraph [0009], where with the loop back address the system is able to perform this function).

Therefore it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made wherein the print request part requests a printing part of the image forming apparatus itself to print the print data as taught by Shima '503, in the

system of Whitmarsh '608, Matsueda '692, Furukawa '065 and Ouchi '936. With this the development cost are reduced by dispensing with the development of an interface relying on each printing server (English abstract).

(2) regarding claims 10 and 23:

Whitmarsh '608, Matsueda '692, Furukawa '065 and Ouchi '936 disclose all the subject matter as described above except wherein the print request part requests the printing part of the image forming apparatus itself to print the print data by using a loop back address.

However, Shima '503 teaches wherein the print request part requests the printing part of the image forming apparatus itself to print the print data by using a loop back address (paragraph [0009], where with the loop back address the system is able to perform this function).

Therefore it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made wherein the print request part requests the printing part of the image forming apparatus itself to print the print data by using a loop back address as taught by Shima '503, in the system of Whitmarsh '608, Matsueda '692, Furukawa '065 and Ouchi '936. With this the development cost are reduced by dispensing with the development of an interface relying on each printing server (English abstract).

6. Claims 12 and 25 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Whitmarsh (US 2002/0101608), Matsueda et al. (US 2001/0040692), Furukawa et al. (US 2001/0046065) and Ouchi et al. (US 2003/0025936) in view of Aoyagi et al. (US 2002/0032761).

Whitmarsh '608, Matsueda '692, Furukawa '065 and Ouchi '936 disclose all the subject matter as described above except wherein the address obtaining part obtains the addresses from MIBs by using SNMP.

However, Aoyagi '761 teaches wherein the address obtaining part obtains the addresses from MIBs by using SNMP (paragraph [0393]).

Therefore it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made wherein the address obtaining part obtains the addresses from MIBs by using SNMP as taught by Aoyagi '761, in the system of Whitmarsh '608, Matsueda '692, Furukawa '065 and Ouchi '936. This allows for displaying a network configuration chart that allows easy understanding of port-by-port connections of network devices and the like (paragraph [0013]).

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to LENNIN R. RODRIGUEZ whose telephone number is (571)270-1678. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Thursday 7:30am - 6:00pm EST.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Mark Zimmerman can be reached on (571) 272-7653. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

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